

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
COUNTY OF STAFFORD
STAFFORD, VIRGINIA

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
February 3, 2011

Call to Order. A regular meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission was called to order by Anita Dodd, Chair, at 3:08 PM, Thursday, February 3, 2011, in the ABC Conference Room, Stafford County Administration Center.

Roll Call. The following members were present: Anita Dodd, Chair; Ann Best-Rolls, Vice Chair; Barbara Kirby, Secretary; Jane Conner; Cessie Howell; David Rodriguez MD and Frank White.

Also in attendance were: Brad Johnson, Redevelopment Administrator; Chris Hoppe, Director, Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities; Keith Dayton, Director, Public Works; Jeff Harvey, Director, Kathy Baker, Assistant Director, Mike Lott & Amber Forestier, Environmental Planners, all of Planning & Zoning; Terry Baxley Morton, Commission Clerk.

Presentations by the Public. No one from the public was present

Discussion with County Departments on Cultural Resources. The Historical Commission would like to open the lines of communication better between staff, departments and the Commission regarding cultural resources, archeological studies, architectural studies, demolition of structures and similar items. Anita Dodd said one of the main subjects the Commission deals with is cultural resources. She said the Commission is often involved with the planning process when development plans are submitted to the County. The Commission is asked to make recommendations on cultural resources that may or may not exist within the plan. The Commission helps determine if the plan needs a particular predicted modeling or if there is indication from the County's database or other available resources that there may be cultural resources on the property. The Commission is currently working on a preservation ordinance that would make the recommendations the Commission routinely has mandatory for developers. The ordinance would only deal with development properties. Currently the suggestions are only recommendations and are not required. Anita Dodd said some developers comply and some do not, currently it is difficult to enforce. One of the reasons County staff is present at the meeting is there are other cultural resources the Commission wants to become more involved with. Another example is digging that is involved for utilities. Unfortunately, sometimes items are not flagged that should be. The County owns property with cultural resources that sometimes requires maintenance. Redevelopment is a big area that involves cultural resources. She said the Commission has been involved with everyone present at the meeting. Anita Dodd asked County staff that was present for suggestions.

Chris Hoppe said it would be helpful to know what properties have previously been mapped or flagged. He said the Commission was previously given a spreadsheet containing all County owned parcels. Anita Dodd iterated that the Historical Commission is equated with historic properties or "old" and that is not always the case. She said as an example in 1976 there was practically one fast food restaurant, one grocery store and a nice country store on Garrisonville Road and none of it is there now. She said it would be nice to at least have a photo of the area at that time. It would help illustrate the evolution of SR-610 (Garrisonville Road). She said another example would be to have a streetscape photo of Doc Stone Commons if it were to be removed showing how 610 has changed. She said although areas are not considered of historical concern it will be 50 years from now. She said not only do we need to address the past but the present for the future as well. She said that is one of the points the Commission is trying to get across. She said it is an ongoing process to keep adding to the list.

Cessie Howell asked the Staff, present, if they had a copy of the Scheel's map of the County. The Commission said the map is a helpful tool and established that every department will receive a copy of the map.

Ann Best-Rolls asked if there is an inner-department check-list for developments if the Historical Commission could be added. Jeff Harvey mentioned the TRC (Technical Review Committee) process for development projects where all the departments and agencies have an opportunity to make comments. He said Anita Dodd currently receives the information.

Cessie Howell said the Commission gets concerned when developers do not provide archeological studies yet a study was not performed for the Dixon Smith property. She said sometimes the County does not provide a study. She said the Dixon Smith property was an actual Civil War site. Anita Dodd said there have been times when the Commission was brought in at a later date and the developer already has plans laid out. The developer can get distraught because they were not expecting the requirement early on. She said some projects are under Section 106 and the developer has to comply. Jeff Harvey said the earliest the County gets involved in a project is the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) process. He said that would be a way for the Commission to be aware of the project and get involved early. Chris Hoppe said Jeff Harvey's suggestion is a good long range look at what projects are being envisioned by the County.

Brad Johnson said he has been to the Commission several times regarding the Redevelopment Plan and he appreciates its input. He said digital video would be great especially if it was available on the County's network and somehow tied to the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) parcels. He said one example of a helpful tool is when the Commission put a paper together on the Counting House in Falmouth. Anita Dodd said the Commission would like to be more involved with such items especially if it is County property. Brad Johnson asked if there are other properties around the County that the Commission knows of, even if it is not County property, because it greatly helps him. He said history is extremely important to economic development. He said he can see a very close working relationship between the Commission and Tourism. He said he hopes to have a symbiotic relationship with the Commission. He said sometimes situations are opportunities and people just do not realize it. Barbara Kirby pointed out that a Phase I study can be just like an insurance policy because you know what you have and what you have to do early on.

Ann Best-Rolls asked if the County has ever had a Tourism Department seminar with the Historical Commission regarding heritage tourism. She said at one point heritage tourism was the number three industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Barbara Kirby asked Brad Johnson if he would like notification of subjects that are interesting in the development areas that the Commission knows is worthy of investigating. He agreed.

Anita Dodd pointed out that the Commission did not receive a copy of the study for the old well on the Courthouse property. Kathy Baker said the report went before the ARB (Architectural Review Board). The Commission said it desires to work more closely with the ARB. Barbara Kirby serves on both the Commission and the ARB allowing this to be an easier task.

Anita Dodd said the whole reason for having the directors and various staff members attend the Commission meeting is to try to solve communication issues. She said department staff may not have even realized it was an issue or thought of it as an issue, or that the Commission has an interest in being involved early on in projects. She said the Commission wants to be involved in any mitigation and what happens to cultural resources.

Jane Conner told Brad Johnson the Commission is able to assist the redevelopment process with signage. Brad Johnson said they are looking forward to its assistance on that process. Anita Dodd said the Commission will be better prepared to assist with projects if it has communication from the beginning on. Brad Johnson said he would have M.C. Moncure, Tourism Manager, meet with the Commission on signage.

Chris Hoppe told the Commission about a monthly statistical report that is issued to the Board of Supervisors detailing every department's current projects and stats. Brad Johnson said the current adopted CIP (Capital Improvement Program) and the current proposed CIP are on the County's web-site. Brad Johnson asked the Commission to create and facilitate a heritage tourism plan for Falmouth along with Economic Development. Anita Dodd said she spoke with someone that is contemplating developing a heritage tourism plan for their thesis. Brad Johnson said the County does

not know what the cost will be yet. Ann Best-Rolls asked about the possibility of a County-wide heritage tourism plan. Barbara Kirby mentioned a plan needed to start in an area and build from there. Barbara Kirby thanked Mike Lott for the photograph of the old brick chimney he discovered while walking a property. The Commission is requesting a Phase I study for potential Native American Indian artifacts.

Amber Forestier said staff from the Commissioner of the Revenue's office are calling her when they perform a zoning review on demolition plans that are for a structure more than 50 years old.

Anita Dodd announced a copy of the Historical and Architectural survey of the Revolutionary War Road and Transportation Survey in the Commonwealth of Virginia, 1781 - 1782 by Robert Selig PhD is available. CDs of the survey will be handed out at the next Commission meeting.

Approval of Minutes. Approve Minutes of the January 6, 2011 Commission Meeting.

Jane Conner motioned, seconded by Barbara Kirby, to adopt the January 6, 2011 Commission annual meeting minutes with minor corrections.

The Voting Commission Tally was:

Yea:	(6)	Best-Rolls, Conner, Dodd, Howell, Kirby, White
Nay:	(0)	
Abstain:	(1)	Rodriguez

Falmouth Intersection - Update & Discussion. Anita Dodd attended a meeting regarding the Falmouth Intersection at VDOT that morning. She said VDOT has finalized the plans. The lanes were to be 12 feet wide and VDOT changed the plan to 11 feet wide to save more cultural resources. She had a copy of the landscape plan; it illustrated the barriers as being 6 inches high. Anita Dodd listed the following priority items for mitigation regarding the intersection:
 -Revolutionary War, -Recording the Glover Store, -Additional Archeology Studies, -VDOT potentially paying for signage, -Utilities located underground, -Moving the small houses, where to move them, who will take care of them?

Finalize Revision of the Historic Preservation Award Process. The Commission discussed the final process and reviewed the final letter for organizations to present nominations and a meeting was scheduled for the Nomination Committee. Letters are to be sent followed up by e-mails to those groups.

Report by Commission Chair. Anita Dodd reported on the following: - VDOT desires the County to come up with a Management Plan.

- Heritage Tourism Plan - Anita Dodd spoke with someone interested in creating a plan for their thesis.

Adjournment. At 5:15 PM the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Anita Dodd - Commission Chair

Barbara Kirby - Commission Secretary